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Final Report on Amanzule Wetland Conservation Activities



Prepared for
COASTAL SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPES PROJECT (CSLP)

By Hen Mpoano

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Table of Contents

List of Tables-----	1
1.0 Introduction-----	2
2.0 Activities and accomplishments -----	5
Annex 1: Summary Report on Sensitization and Validation Meeting with Sub-Chiefs on Conservation of Amanzule Wetlands at Beyin on November 20, 2014-----	9
Annex 2: Summary Report on Sensitization and Consultation Meeting with Jomoro District Assembly on Conservation of Amanzule Wetlands at Half-Assini on December 4, 2014 -----	13
Annex 3: Summary Report on the Sensitization and Consultation Meeting with NGOs and CBOs on Conservation of Amanzule Wetlands at Nkronful on December 11, 2014-----	20
Annex 4: Amanzule Wetlands Conservation Durbars for Jomoro Communities -----	26
Annex 5: Summary Report on Ellebelle Community Wetlands Conservation Meetings-----	35
Annex 6: Sensitization and Consultation Meeting with Ellebelle District Assembly on Conservation of Amanzule Wetlands at Nkroful on January 21, 2015 -----	42
Annex 7: Amanzule Working Group Meeting at Nkroful on January 22, 2015 -----	48
Annex 8: Third Amanzule Retreat: Achieving Conservation Status for Amanzule Wetlands: The Progress So Far -----	50
Overview of day one activities by Daniel D. Nii Nortey -----	51
Annex 9: GIS Maps -----	55
Annex 10: IEC materials -----	58
Annex 11: Agenda for Meetings and Community Durbars -----	59

List of Tables

Table 1: Activities and accomplishments for Awareness raising events	5
Table 2: Activities and accomplishments for mapping and geospatial support.....	8

1.0 Introduction

The Greater Amanzule Wetland (GAW) conservation initiative is a collaborative effort between Hen Mpoano (HM) and the Coastal Sustainable Landscapes Project (CSLP). It aims at establishing a formal co-management process and improving management planning for the Amanzule wetlands. It contributes to the achievement of the overarching goals of improved natural resources management and increased capacity for low greenhouse gas emissions development.

Activities under this conservation initiative cover two implementation phases. During Phase I (spanning November 2012 – January 2015), HM carried out series of activities relative to conservation awareness raising, geographic information systems (GIS) mapping and spatial analysis. This report summarizes progress made on these activities. Drawing on the lessons learned during the 3-month implementation period and stakeholders' input into the process, the report also suggests strategies and activities required for transitioning from awareness raising to field-based conservation and wetland management planning.

1.1 Conservation awareness raising events

These events have been carried out to build stakeholder support for, and understanding of, the conservation process and also obtain buy-in, particularly of chiefs for conservation actions yet to be undertaken. Central to the awareness raising events was the socialization of the Greater Amanzule conservation scenarios which was developed during the Integrated Coastal and Fisheries Governance (ICFG) project.

Over 300 people, including farmers, fishers and other resource users, participated actively in community durbars and gained new knowledge on the benefits of wetlands as well as the linkages between livelihoods and wetland ecosystem services. During the community durbars, over 60 people elected to volunteer as members of community level conservation committees. In addition, sub-chiefs of the 23 wetland fringe communities affirmed their buy-in through endorsing a resolution in support of the conservation scenarios. These activities have built a firm foundation and generated significant social momentum for moving forward with planning and implementation of field-based conservation actions.

Nonetheless, some critical issues raised during the awareness creation events require attention in the next implementation phase. Notable among these are oil and gas infrastructure development activities and the threats it poses to the maintenance of wetland ecosystem goods and services as well as perverse government policies that allow for such development. Presently, the Amanzule wetlands has no formal conservation status, thus making it relatively easy for government and private developers, to subject the area to various forms of uses that are incompatible with conservation and long-term sustainability of the wetlands. A starting point for achieving the needed conservation status for the wetlands will be through demarcation and mapping of wetland areas by communities, coupled with recognition and endorsement by the district assemblies through bye-laws and incorporation into their plans and programmes.

1.2 Community and district level structures for conservation

Throughout the stakeholder consultation processes, notably with NGOs, CBOs, district assemblies as well as chiefs, the issue of governance arrangements for wetland conservation was noted as being crucial for successful conservation actions. A major concern revolved around the process of establishing structures that are functional and will help achieve desired conservation

outcomes at the community and district levels. The process of establishing structures for conservation, as discussed, should recognize the strengths and weaknesses of existing models and approaches such as community-based natural resources management (CBNRM), community resource management areas (CREMAs), project management committees, voluntary management committees, unit committees and area councils. It was noted that development of structures and processes for conservation of the Amanzule wetlands will require careful thought about how to leverage the support of, and incentivize, existing committees to become functional. Consequently, one-size-fits all approach will not be effective; structures that emerge in each community/area will be based on what is workable, given the local context.

In addition, there was general agreement among stakeholders on the need to federate community level committees, for example, at the district level, in order to ensure that the committees are well-coordinated and their efforts supported at a higher level.

1.3 Way forward

Through the expanded awareness and knowledge about the benefits of wetlands, and the support generated during the past implementation phase, HM has laid the groundwork for the formation of conservation committees and development and implementation of management plans for the Greater Amanzule wetlands. The following are suggested strategies and indicative activities for realizing these conservation outcomes.

- **Selection of communities to pilot conservation committees**

While all 23 beneficiary communities in the Greater Amanzule region are motivated to participate in conservation activities through formation of conservation committees, HM will select some communities and or a cluster thereof, for piloting community conservation committees during the initial 6 months of Phase II. The number of committees formed during the pilot phase will depend on the communities/cluster of communities selected. The preliminary criteria for selection include presence of existing committees, willingness of communities to work together, level of support of community leadership and existing management practices. In all, we expect to work with 12 communities from both Ellembelle and Jomoro districts during the pilot phase. In each community/cluster, members of committees will be determined through a participatory decision making process driven by the communities and their leaders. Subsequently, the committees will be allowed to elect their leaders. Volunteers identified during the awareness raising events will also be co-opted into the committees. Hopefully, this approach will generate *quick wins* in the pilot communities and shorten the learning process for adaptation and replication in the remaining 12 communities.

- **Build capacity of conservation committees**

In conjunction with CSLP, HM will build capacity of conservation committees to manage wetlands and monitor changes in wetland ecosystem services. Capacity building activities will lay much emphasis on the functions of the committees going forward and will consciously be linked to field-based conservation actions. These activities will include training in the establishment and management of mangrove seedling nursery, development and implementation of conservation-oriented community action plans, mapping and delineation of wetland boundaries and rehabilitation of degraded wetland areas. Members of the committees will also benefit from trainings in communication, leadership skills, development of committees' internal

governance mechanisms, development of local bye-laws as well as periodic peer exchanges and learning events. HM will also conduct a needs assessment, based on which equipment and materials will be provided the committees to enable them perform their functions effectively.

- **Regular communication and awareness raising campaigns**

Lessons learned from the 3-month implementation phase indicate that maintaining regular communication on progress of Amanzule wetland conservation is necessary to keep the process on the agenda of government (District assemblies, Wildlife division), private sector and traditional authorities. Our communication strategy will involve holding periodic briefing meetings with government agencies including district assemblies and Wildlife Division, organizing radio discussion programmes, and where appropriate, exploring the use of short videos and documentaries to highlight and disseminate success stories on the process. HM will provide opportunities to members of conservation committees to lead the communication process, where appropriate. HM will also share periodic reports on the process with government agencies and solicit their feedback.

- **Identification and piloting of livelihood options**

Livelihood enhancement was an issue of concern throughout the community durbars. A key strategy will involve working in conjunction with CSLP to explore opportunities for developing livelihood / income generating activities in target communities, preferably during the first 6 months of the next phase of implementation.

- **Development of wetland management bye-laws and plans**

The community and district conservation committees will lead the process of developing bye-laws and management plans for the wetlands. Management plans will be developed for sub-management units identified within the Greater Amanzule area while identifying and discussing best practices for wetland management with stakeholders. HM will facilitate these processes by organizing series of meetings and trainings at the community and district levels and tailored to the needs of the sub-management units. The process will also draw significantly on the technical services of district assemblies and Wildlife Division of the Forestry Commission.

2.0 Summary of activities and accomplishments

The tables below summarize the activities and related accomplishments during the reporting period.

Table 1: Activities and accomplishments for awareness raising events

Task	Activity	Accomplishment/output	Remarks
1. 0 Awareness raising/creation on the Greater Amanzule Conservation Area	1.1 Socialization, validation and buy-in with GAW Sub- chiefs	Meeting was organized and attended by 21 chiefs and elders from communities fringing the Amanzule wetlands and located in both the Jomoro and Ellembelle districts. The Amanzule Conservation Scenario formulated during the ICFG project was socialized and sub-chiefs affirmed their buy-in by endorsing a resolution in support of the Scenarios.	There were significant concerns about some government policies that are unfavorable for wetland conservation and the need to redress such policies as part of the process.
	1.2 Consultations with CBOs, NGOs and DA technical services	<p>During the period, a meeting was held with the Jomoro district assembly and another, with CBOs and NGOs having both Ellembelle and Jomoro districts as operational areas. The district meeting was attended by 15 heads of departments and selected assembly members from coastal electoral areas. The assembly identified its potential roles in supporting and formalizing the conservation of the Amanzule wetland; notable being enactment of bye-laws, formation of special committees or integration of wetland conservation into activities of existing committees such as the area councils and unit committees.</p> <p>NGO and CBO representatives also affirmed their support for the conservation process and identified their potential roles to include; engaging in advocacy through their existing platforms and communication medium for improved conservation of the Amanzule wetland; networking to learn and share conservation approaches and lessons and assisting with education and sensitization events.</p>	During the meetings, we learnt that some of the NGOs and CBOs have existing community-based structures for facilitating natural resources management in their operational areas. These structures include CREMAs and community monitoring groups promoted by WAPCA; tour guides and project management committee members supported by the GWS as well PCC's voluntary management committees.

<p>1.3 Socialization and consultations with separate communities</p>	<p>Between December 17-20, 2014, community durbars on Amanzule wetland conservation were held with over 120 participants comprising assembly members, youth leaders, teachers, farmers, fishers and sub-chiefs from 12 communities – Mangyea, Effasu, Metika, Ekpu, Half Assini, Egbazo, Old Kablesuazo, Ebonloa, Elonyi, Enzilibo, Beyin and Nzulezu – in the Jomoro district. The durbars resulted in heightened awareness of participants on the benefits of conserving the Amanzule wetland. It also generated feedback from participants regarding existing and potential threats to the wetland as well as opportunities for its conservation.</p>	<p>Some community inhabitants volunteered to help in future activities to conserve the wetlands- their names are maintained in a register at Hen Mpoano to facilitate follow-up contact. .</p>
<p>1.4 Production and dissemination of IEC materials</p>	<p>During the period, Hen Mpoano developed and produced 500 calendars; 2 stand-up banners and 3 A0 flexi posters. These IEC materials were used to illustrate and communicate the linkages between ecosystem services and livelihoods during the above-mentioned community durbars.</p>	<p>350 posters have been developed, produced and used for the community durbars</p>
<p>1.5 Community meetings in Ellembelle District</p>	<p>From January 13- 16 2015, five community meetings were held in Ellembelle District as part of the activities planned under the Amanzule Wetlands Conservation initiative. Like the previous meetings held in the Jomoro District in December, 2014, adjacent communities were clustered to ensure effective participation of the selected participants. In all five meetings were organized. The meetings were held in Sawoma (Ankobra), Apaim, Alabokazo, Sanzule and Old Bankata.</p>	<p>More community members including more women than the meetings held in the Jomoro district. They are called for the introduction of livelihood options to encourage the people to take part in conservation activities.</p>
<p>1.6 Consultative meeting with Ellembelle Assembly</p>	<p>The meeting was held for a select staff from the Ellembelle District Assembly to socialize the Conservation scenarios and get their buy-in for the Greater Amanzule Wetlands conservation agenda. The meeting took place at the Ellembelle District Assembly Hall on January 21, 2015. Participants present were assembly members from six electoral areas, heads</p>	<p>Some of the identified issues include Empowerment of Unit Committees and Area Councils to help conserve the wetlands in their</p>

	of departments, Presiding member, Coordinating Director, his two deputies and the Planning Officer.	areas, in-cooperation of wetlands conservation into assembly's development plan, gazetting bye-laws on wetlands/natural resource conservation
1.7 Amanzule Working Group meeting	This report highlights discussions and outcomes of the Amanzule Working Group (AWG) meeting in Nkroful at the Ellebelle District Assembly Hall on January 22, 2015. It was attended by thirteen members including staff from Hen Mpoano and CSLP.	The group members decided not to dissolve the group, but rather could engage in advocacy, be part of Community Conservation Committee in their locality, could look for funding to support their own activities.
1.8 Amanzule retreat	It was attended by 45 participants including traditional leaders, community members, district assembly officials from January 29-30, 2015. The objectives were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To inform stakeholders on the progress of work on the conservation agenda • To present the next set of actions to be implemented for adoption by stakeholders • To discuss issues and challenges arising out of the activities so far implemented 	The participants expressed appreciation for the work so far done, but called for more education in the communities to make many people aware of the importance of the wetlands. The issue of livelihood options for community members and the need to involve traditional authorities and the district assemblies was also discussed at the retreat.

Table 2: Activities and accomplishments for mapping and geospatial support

Task	Activity	Accomplishment/output	Remarks
2.0 Generation of base maps and thematic maps	2.1 Production of base maps of the project area	One (1) composite base map of the six coastal districts and the 6 district level base maps were completed (refer annex for map)	The base maps of the project area are overview maps of the west coast. Each of maps shows the settlements, wetlands, road network and gas infrastructure in the districts. The composite map is the amalgamation of the six coastal districts base maps
	2.4 Production of base maps for the Greater Amanzule Wetlands intervention area	In all, 6 intervention maps were completed (refer annex for maps)	The intervention maps are indicative of specific locations where CSLP is performing one activity or the other. It comprises the 23 communities in the Greater Amanzule Wetland (i.e. Jomoro and Ellembelle) where HM is supporting CSLP with wetland conservation; another 18 communities in all the six coastal districts where CSLP is working directly; and 1 BBOVID site in the Mpohor District.

Annex 1: Summary Report on Sensitization and Validation Meeting with Sub-Chiefs on Conservation of Amanzule Wetlands at Beyin on November 20, 2014

Introduction

This report highlights the major issues discussed and their outcome during the meeting held in Beyin at Ghana Wildlife Society Center in the Jomoro District on November 20, 2014. The participants were chiefs and their representatives from 23 selected communities in and around the Amanzule wetlands located in both the Jomoro and Ellembelle districts.

Agenda

The main agenda for the meeting was to socialize the Amanzule Conservation Scenarios and the Amanzule Conservation Declaration facilitated by the ICFG project with sub-chiefs within the 23 communities along the Greater Amanzule Wetlands area in order to solicit their support and buy-in for implementation.

Topics Discussed

Consistent with the agenda (Annex 7), the meeting, facilitated by Hen Mpoano team and Mr. Emmanuel Ntri, Deputy Chief of Party of the Coastal Sustainable Landscapes Project (CSLP) deliberated on the following topics:

- a. Amanzule Conservation Scenarios
- b. Resolution for the Conservation of the Amanzule Wetlands (June 5, 2013)
- c. Initiatives to conserve the Amanzule wetlands

The ecological and socio-economic importance of the wetlands and the contents of the two documents (conservation scenarios and resolution) were explained to the participants. This was followed by an overview of the CSLP project by Mr. Emmanuel Ntri.

His presentation focused on the need to conserve both wetlands and terrestrial forests as a means to mitigating the impact of climate change and global warming. He also briefed the participants on the essential components of CSLP's livelihood initiative such as agro-forestry to provide wood for charcoal production, forest enrichment planting with economic trees, bee-keeping and the rotating village savings and loans scheme.



Figure 1: From left to right; Daniel and Stephen presenting on the agenda

Issues Arising out of Presentations

The participants discussed the papers presented and asked for clarifications. After that, they expressed the following concerns:

- The activities of gold miners on the upstream of the Ankobra River pose significant threat to the wetlands
- Local communities still express low level of appreciation of modern conservation values often introduced by CSOs
- Measures to address wetland conservation should tackle unfavorable government policies (for example government initiating development program in wetlands)
- Government also initiate development project within wetlands without adequate measures to safeguard the interest of local communities
- Certain uses such as diversion of the course of rivers is a threat to the survival of wetlands and related ecosystem services in the Amanzule area
- Absence of wetland management plans affects wetlands
- Livelihoods of wetland communities are affected or likely to be affected by the operations of oil and gas companies.

- Communities need to be empowered to resist the destruction of wetlands.
- Communities should derive immediate benefits through wetland conservation.



Figure 2: From left to right; Mr. Ntri (Deputy Director, CSLP) and Daniel (Hen Mpoano) addressing some concerns raised by the chiefs.

Way Forward

At the end of the discussions, the participants made the following recommendations as way of moving the conservation agenda forward:

- Sensitization and awareness raising on the conservation scenarios including formation of management committees should be a community based effort.
- There should be continuous education in all communities to become aware on the importance of wetlands
- Study tours or fact-finding missions need to be organized to gain first- hand knowledge about the activities that negatively affect wetlands. And this should inform the management planning process.
- The communities should establish structures to conserve wetlands

- Since poverty is an issue, additional livelihood opportunities should be explored in the wetland communities. This should include valorization of existing micro enterprises that utilize wetland resources.
- Benefits from conserving wetlands must be used to develop the communities

Stakeholders

The participants (Annex 7) called for the inclusion of the following stakeholders in efforts aimed at the conservation of wetland in the communities:

- Opinion leaders
- Farmers
- Fishers and fish processors
- NGOs and other civil society organizations
- Assembly men and women and unit committee members
- Researchers
- Teachers (active and retired)
- Wood harvesters and wood traders

At the end of the meeting the participants agreed to sign a resolution to signal their commitment and support for the implementation of the conservation scenarios (Annex 7).

Next steps

The following steps will be taken as part of the sensitization agenda;

- Meetings with Jomoro and Ellembelle district assemblies
- Community meetings
- Production of IEC materials

Observations

The sub-chiefs brought along their linguists and queen mothers in some cases, to the meeting. This increased the expectations and budgets for transportation. If such meetings are organized in the future, this should be anticipated.

Conclusion

The meeting was well attended and the chiefs showed enthusiasm for the conservation of the Amanzule wetlands. There is the need to sustain this enthusiasm by organizing the community meetings as soon as practicable.

Annex 2: Summary Report on Sensitization and Consultation Meeting with Jomoro District Assembly on Conservation of Amanzule Wetlands at Half-Assini on December 4, 2014

Introduction

This report highlights the major issues discussed and their outcome during the meeting held in Half-Assini at the Conference Hall of the Jomoro District Guest House on December 4, 2014. The participants were heads of departments, and Assembly members from some selected coastal electoral areas.

Statement by District Coordinating Director

The District Coordinating Director, Mr. Abudu Amadu officially welcomed all participants present to the meeting. In his address, he emphasized that although other NGOs have helped in conservation related issues in the district. Hen Mpoano has spearheaded most of these deliberations and has been very supportive to the district. He added that Hen Mpoano has been very professional and strategic in selecting people for the meeting since the participants he sees are the right stakeholders needed for such a laudable meeting. He acknowledged the vital role played by Assemblymen in the development of the assembly and urged them to send the messages they will receive to their various communities and to the other Assemblymen who could not attend the meeting. He ended by welcoming the participants once again the peaceful district of Jomoro.



Figure 3: The Coordinating director Mr. Abudu Amadu welcoming the participants

Overview of CSLP

Mr. Emmanuel Ntri (Deputy Director of CSLP) in his presentation explained that the main focus of the Coastal Sustainable Landscapes project was on Climate change mitigation and adaptation. He added that, at the end of the project, there should be:

- Improved livelihoods through enhanced natural resource management practices
- Strengthened stakeholder engagement and coordination on sustainable landscape management
- Enhanced capacity for ecosystem services monitoring

These would be achieved through Interventions such as:

- ❖ Implementation of agroforestry and forestry practices
 - ✓ Land use design and implementation
- ❖ Short and medium term livelihood improvement activities
 - ✓ Bee-keeping expansion
 - ✓ Increased vegetable production
 - ✓ Woodlots for charcoal production
- ❖ On –farm tree planting
- ❖ Assistance with the management of greening areas as designated in spatial plans by Town and Country Planning Units
- ❖ Establishment of trees in open areas and schools to promote urban greeneries
- ❖ Community management of coastal zone and wetland areas (restore / replant degraded mangrove sites, working with community based natural resource management groups, e.g. CREMAs)
- ❖ Spatial planning related to:
 - ✓ Landscape vegetation types (land cover stratification)
 - ✓ Characterization and delineation of sensitive / degraded habitats within project areas
 - ✓ Carbon stocks quantification within project sites
- ❖ Gender inclusion in all activities
- ❖ Facilitating the establishment of Village Savings and Loan Associations-VSLA (to help promote local livelihood activities)

He ended by saying that, the CSLP would use approaches such as:

1. In-field consultations
2. Strategic capacity building
3. Targeted training
4. Detailed technical assistance
5. Participation in institutional/policy level discussions/ workshops



Figure 4: The Deputy Director of CSLP Mr. Emmanuel Ntri addressing participants

Presentation by Balertey Gormey

Mr. Gormey defined the The Greater Amanzule Wetlands as stretching from the Ankobra River estuary to the Ivory Coast border and covers the coastal plains of the Ellebelle and Jomoro districts.



Figure 5: Mr. Balertey Gormey (Project officer Hen Mpoano) addressing participants

Importance of wetlands

In his presentation, Mr. Gormey pointed out that Wetlands are important natural ecosystems because they serve as:

1. Home for migratory birds
2. Feeding grounds for juvenile fishes
3. Spawning grounds for fishes
4. Carbon sinks
5. Water purification systems
6. Flood control
7. Tourist sites
8. Erosion control

Evolution of GAW Conservation Process

Mr. Gormey continued to explain that various processes have led to the several development when it comes to the issue of conserving the Amanzule wetlands. The highlights were:

1. The formation of the Amanzule Working Group (AWG) with representatives from traditional authority, civil society, Wildlife Division, and selected members of District assemblies.
2. The expansion of AWG to include SPAGs
3. Consultative/stakeholder meetings
4. Community level meetings
5. Endorsement workshop
6. Socialization of the model
7. Received support and benediction of Nzema Manle and other stakeholders



Figure 6: Participants actively engaged during a presentation section

Issues of concern and roles of District Assembly departments towards GAW conservation

This was a discussion section led by Mr. Stephen Kankam (Deputy Director of Hen Mpoano). He solicited inputs into how the assembly could help in forming structures to help in the conservation of the Greater Amanzule wetlands. He however stated that, various existing structure should be harmonized to allow for efficiency and effectiveness.



Figure 7: Mr. Henry W. Anlimah (Assemblyman of Old Kablensuazo) contributing to the meeting

Outcomes

1. Enact Bye-laws by district
2. Alternative livelihood options
3. Sustainable management of mangroves (alternative source of fuel wood)
4. JDA staff to support Hen Mpoano/CSLP on community sensitization exercises (personnel from the assembly)
5. JDA should help in the formation of committees
6. Working with existing local governance structures eg. Unit committee and Area councils (since they have Action Plans). This will help in harmonization of institutions

7. JDA can form special sub-committees for specific issues eg. Extractive sub-committee has been formed to work on oil and gas sector
8. Point person from the district to Hen Mpoano- Community Development officer
9. HM should work with the Extractive Environmental and Small Scale Sub-committee

Closing remarks

In his closing statement, Mr Abudu Amadu was pleased the program had come to a successful end. He made known to the participants that, through the meeting he now knows and understands the meaning of Amanzule. He added that, the Toolkits that were produced and distributed by Hen Mpoano during the ICFG project has really helped the district.

Annex 3: Summary Report on the Sensitization and Consultation Meeting with NGOs and CBOs on Conservation of Amanzule Wetlands at Nkronful on December 11, 2014

Introduction

This report highlights the outcomes and discussions of a Consultative meeting between NGOs and CBOs. Major issues raised and important contributions made have been documented.

Welcome Address by Mr. Stephen Kankam

Mr. Stephen Kankam (Deputy Director, Hen Mpoano) in his address talked about the history of Hen Mpoano, the objectives, principles and areas of engagement.

He then allowed participants to introduce themselves, their organizations and the scope of work of their various organizations within the Ellembelle and Jomoro Districts.



Figure 8: The Programmes Coordinator of Hen Mpoano Mr. Stephen Kankam welcoming the participants

Objectives

The objectives of the meeting were to:

- Introduce the CSLP, its objectives and expected results
- Create awareness on the Greater Amanzule Conservation initiative to solicit the support and buy-in of the NGOs and CBOs
- Identify roles NGOs and CBOs can play in collaboration with Hen Mpoano to promote the Amanzule Conservation agenda

- Identify the way forward

Overview of CSLP

Mr. Richard Adupong (Communication officer of CSLP) in his presentation explained that the main focus of the project was on Climate change mitigation and adaptation. Key messages from his presentation were that, CSLP will:

- Strengthen stakeholder engagement and coordination on sustainable landscape management
- Enhanced capacity for ecosystem services monitoring

He added that the above would be achieved through interventions such as:

- ❖ Implementation of agroforestry and forestry practices
 - ✓ Land use design and implementation
- ❖ Short and medium term livelihood improvement activities
 - ✓ Bee-keeping expansion
 - ✓ Increased vegetable production
 - ✓ Woodlots for charcoal production
- ❖ On –farm tree planting
- ❖ Assistance with the management of greening areas as designated in spatial plans by Town and Country Planning Units
- ❖ Establishment of trees in open areas and schools to promote urban greeneries
- ❖ Community management of coastal zone and wetland areas (restore / replant degraded mangrove sites, working with community based natural resource management groups, e.g. CREMAs)
- ❖ Spatial planning related to:
 - ✓ Landscape vegetation types (land cover stratification)
 - ✓ Characterization and delineation of sensitive / degraded habitats within project areas
 - ✓ Carbon stocks quantification within project sites
- ❖ Gender inclusion in all activities
- ❖ Facilitating the establishment of Village Savings and Loan Associations-VSLA (to help promote local livelihood activities)



Figure 9: The Communication officer of CSLP Mr. Richard Adupong addressing participants

Presentation by Balertey Gormey

Mr. Gormey describe the Greater Amanzule Wetlands as stretching from the Ankobra River estuary to the Ivory Coast border and covers the coaster plains of the Ellembelle and Jomoro districts.



Figure 10: Mr. Balertey Gormey (Project officer Hen Mpoano) addressing participants

Importance of wetlands

In his presentation, Mr. Gormey pointed out that Wetlands are important natural ecosystems because they serve as:

1. Home for migratory birds
2. Feeding grounds for juvenile fishes
3. Spawning grounds for fishes
4. Carbon sinks
5. Water purification systems
6. Flood control
7. Tourist sites
8. Erosion control

Evolution of GAW Conservation Process

He elaborated that various processes had led to the several development in the domain of conserving the Amanzule wetlands. The high lights were;

1. Amanzule Working Group (AWG) was formed with representatives from traditional authority, civil society, Wildlife Division, and selected members of District assemblies.
2. AWG was expanded to include SPAGs
3. Consultative/stakeholder meetings
4. Community level meetings
5. Endorsement workshop
6. Socialization of the model
7. Received support and benediction of Nzema Manle and other stakeholders



Figure 11: Participants actively engaged during a presentation section

Issues of concern and roles of NGOs and CBOs towards GAW conservation

Mr. Stephen Kankam in facilitating this section urged participants to come out with areas where their organization can collaborated with Hen Mpoano to promote the conservation of the Greater Amanzule wetlands.

He added that NGOs and CBOs would play key roles in the efforts to conserve the Greater Amanzule wetlands.



Figure 12: Miss Nana. Yaa. Nyarko-Duah (Project Officer Ghana Wildlife Society) contributing to the meeting

Outcomes

1. Unit Committees in some places are functional and hence should be used in advancing the conservation of GAW
2. Asafo groups in various communities could also be involved
3. CREMAs model could be looked at
4. Monitory Teams exist in some communities and can also help
5. Livelihood support as motivation to ensure sustainability
6. Community watch dogs should be set up
7. Project management committee model (Wildlife Society) should be looked at
8. Tour guides could be used for monitoring work
9. Continuous education and sensitization should be the key
10. Involve/target youth, religious and women groups and football teams
11. Good leadership is expected from Hen Mpoano
12. Networking NGOs involved in conservation

Roles of NGOs and CBOs

- Platform for Coastal Communities; Their voluntary district management committee is involved in education activities
- Endtime; organization of groups and education
- WAPCA; Motivation for groups (eg. hunting boots, cutlass, GHS 50 per month)

Closing remarks

Mr. Stephen Kankam thanked participants and urged NGOs and CBOs to come together and support CSLP and Hen Mpoano to advance this worthy cause in conserving the Greater Amanzule Wetland.

Annex 4: Amanzule Wetlands Conservation Durbars for Jomoro Communities

Introduction

The community meetings form part of the activities under the CSLP with the objective of sensitizing and socializing the Amanzule Conservation Scenarios in the selected 23 communities in the Jomoro and Ellebelle districts in the Western Region.

As a strategy, adjacent communities were clustered to ensure effective participation of the selected participants. In all four meetings were organized in 4 (four) clusters in the Jomoro district. The meetings were held in Mangyea, Half Asini, Old Kablesuazo and Beyin. The Hen Mpoano team also held a meeting with the chief and elders of Ezinlibo

The Report

The following report highlights the salient points discussed and the issues raised by participants of each of the community meetings.

A. Mangyea Meeting

The first of the community meetings was held at Mangyea in the Jomoro district on Wednesday, December 17, 2014. In attendance were 25 participants from Mangyea and Effasu. They included community elders, farmers, fishermen, traders and youth leaders

Method of Delivery

After the introduction by the Assemblyman for the area, Honourable Kofi Nkumson, a documentary on wetlands was shown with the aim of preparing their minds for the main presentation. This was followed by a question and answer session to ascertain their understanding of wetlands in general. Based on the documentary, they agreed that wetlands provide them with fishing livelihoods, wood for fuel and water for livestock, among others.

Main Presentation

The introductory discussions preceded the main presentation on the Greater Amanzule Wetlands and the Conservation Scenarios, which was done in the local language (fante) by Daniel Nortey of Hen Mpoano. This was done through the use of slide show with pictures depicting the uses as well as the degradation of wetlands.



Figure 13: Daniel Northey making a presentation at the the Mangyea meeting

As part of the presentation, participants were also given a general background to the CSLP concept as well as the role being played by Hen Mpoano. This was followed by a brief background on the evolution of the Greater Amanzule Wetlands Conservation initiatives, highlighting the preceding activities during the ICFG program from 2010 to 2013, which led to the formation of the Amanzule Working Group, the Amanzule Retreat, the development of the Conservation Scenarios and the Amanzule Conservation Declaration of June 5, 2013.

Participants were also taken through the importance of wetlands such as livelihood, habitat for animal species, flood control, ecotourism, source of drinking water, etc. The presentation also touched on wetlands degradation activities such as the destruction of wetland vegetation, sand wining, settlements, poor sanitation, overfishing and discharge of untreated sewerage.

After the presentation, participants were given the opportunity to make comments and also ask questions. During this session, they agreed that the wetland in the area had been subjected to various forms of degradation including harvesting of trees for fuel wood and the dumping of solid waste into the Mangyea and Effasu lagoons. They noted that as a result of their activities, the crocodiles, which once inhabited the two lagoons, had all disappeared. They also observed that the quantity of fish caught in the two lagoons had dwindled and trees for fuel are also reducing in quantity. The poor quality of water in the two lagoons is also affecting them. The two communities recognize the urgent need to conserve the wetlands in the area.

What should be done?

The participants put forward the following suggestions to help conserve the wetlands in the two communities:

- Formation of a wetland committee
- Enactment community bye-laws to regulate the use of wetlands
- Planting of relevant trees
- Involvement of the youth in conservation
- Involvement of community chiefs
- Provision of alternative or diversified livelihood trainings.

The participants from Effasu promised to inform community members on the importance of the wetlands. They also promised to form the committee to stop people from cutting the remaining mangroves.

Volunteers

At the end of the meeting, the following people volunteered to help in conserving the wetlands:

1. Clement Edeman
2. Felix Amihere
3. Joseph Edeman
4. Anthony Edudu
5. Theresa Quah

B. Half Assini

The second meeting was held on December 18, 2014 at the Chief's palace at Half Assini. Over 30 people from Metika, Ekpu and Half Assini participated in the meeting. Seven (7) representatives from the chief were also present.

The welcome address was delivered by the Assemblyman from Half Assini, Honourable John Ekobor.



Figure 14: Honourable John Ekobor welcoming participants

After the welcome address, there was screening of a documentary on wetlands after which the participants were asked to express their opinions on the documentary. The participants identified the following as the benefits they derive from wetlands:

- Water for domestic use
- Water for processing coconut oil
- Used for transportation
- Recreation
- Get fish from the wetlands
- Fuel wood

They all agreed that the wetlands have all been degraded, especially in the Half Asini Township and need to be rehabilitated without delay.

Presentation

The introductory documentary was followed by the presentation on the Greater Amanzule Wetlands and the Amanzule Conservation Scenarios. The presentation also touched briefly on CSL project. This session was facilitated by Justice Mensah and Daniel Nortey, all of Hen Mpoano. During the question and answers session, the following issues or concerns were raised:

Concerns/Issues

- There should be more interaction with community members to be fully aware of the importance of wetlands.
- Hen Mpoano should have a representative in the communities to continue awareness creation.
- In the past, the water levels of the various rivers and lagoons were high but now they are very low due to siltation and dumping of waste.
- People block the lagoons and rivers and use unapproved fishing gear to catch every fish.
- Education will help to promote voluntary compliance.

What should be done?

The participants put forward the following suggestions:

1. Fishing gears should be regulated and people should be prevented from blocking portions of the lagoons for their fishing activities
2. There should be replanting at degraded areas
3. Sanitation around wetlands should be improved
4. District assemblies should be involved
5. The Forestry Department should help with seedlings for replanting
6. Committees should be formed in wetland communities to conserve them.

Volunteers

At the end of the meeting the following people volunteered to help with conservation activities:

1. Adamu Issifu- Half Assini

2. Daulphine-Half Assini
3. Patrick Arthur
4. Kussan Hassan- Ekpu

Other Issues

The Hen Mpoano team was joined by that of Friends of the Nation which was also raising awareness on coastal resources in the Half Assini area. Their contribution helped to deepen participants' understanding of the critical issues affecting coastal resources in general and wetlands in particular.

The Chief's Participation

Prior to the meeting, the Hen Mpoano team paid a courtesy call to the Chief of Half Assini who gave his blessing to the meeting and delegated seven of his sub-chiefs to participate in the meeting.

Conclusion

It was a very good meeting and participants demonstrated an understanding of the issues concerning wetland conservation. However, some participants from Half Asini were not happy that their demand for the payment of transportation fees to the meeting was not met. The Chief's representatives also demanded the payment of sitting allowance to them which the team could meet.

C. Old Kablesuazo

The third community meeting was held at Old Kablesuazo on Friday, December 19, 2014. Participants from Old Kablesuazo, Egbazo and Enzilibo were supposed to attend. However only Old Kablesuazo and Egbazo were able to attend and a separate meeting had to be held in Enzilibo on the same day.

Like the two previous meetings a documentary on the Ahanta West CREMA was shown for the participant to get an idea about what other communities are doing to conserve wetlands. It should be noted that Old Kablesuazo is situated at the estuary of the Dumunli river which drains communities like Egbazo and Ahobre. There is a very rich mangrove forest there which the communities have been conserving generations and have witness several interventions from many Non-Governmental organizations including the Ghana Wildlife Society.

Participants met the screening of the documentary with approval. During the discussion that followed they demonstrated an outstanding appreciation of the benefits derived from wetlands such as fishing livelihood, fuel wood, and water for domestic use and also for coconut oil extraction. They however complained that the mangrove forest has become a breeding ground for mosquitoes and that malaria cases are on the increase in the two communities. According to them if the problem is not addressed, they would be forced to clear the mangrove forest to reduce malaria cases in the area. Another concern was that because they have not been cutting the mangrove forest it has increased in size and blocking the flow of water in the Dumunli River. They therefore called for a management regime to help in the free flow of the river.

The Presentation

The presentation that followed highlighted the processes that led the development of the scenarios and the declaration of support for the conservation of the Amanazule wetlands. During the open discussion that followed, they recognize the importance of the wetlands and pledge their support for any effort that would be put in place to conserve them. To them, the mangroves help them to get fish, but the increase in malaria cases is a major problem that must be addressed. One thing that can be done is to assist the community to constantly clear the sand bar at the estuary to allow good tidal flow.



Figure 15: A participant making a contribution

At the end of the discussion, the following people volunteered to work with Hen Mpoano to manage the wetlands

1. Francis Kwesi
2. Stephen Kwofie
3. Sampson Miezah
4. Asamaoh Kagye
5. Vida Amihere

6. Sylvester Onyaku
7. Lydia Asamoah
All from Old Kablesuazo
8. Charles Ettia Sobo
9. Anthony Ebbendoli
10. Addwoka
11. Francis Erzuah

D. Enzilibo Meeting

The next meeting as already stated was held in Enzilibo since participants from the area could not make it to the Old Kablesuzo meeting. The Hen Mpoano team met with the Chief, Nana Kojo Blay IV and his senior elders. They made it clear that they had not been participating in conservation meetings since they had not been properly consulted in the past. The team took time to explain the nature of the conservation initiative and the arrangements put in place to rehabilitate the wetlands. At this stage, the chief suggested that since many people in the area were ignorant about the wetlands it would appropriate to organized a meeting to properly sensitize the people to be able to participate in the conservation activities. For this reason, a meeting will be held early next year to educate the people on the need to conserve the wetlands.

E. Beyin Meeting

The fourth and last meeting for communities in the Jomoro District was held at the Benyin Roman Catholic Basic Schools on Saturday December 20, 2014. Twenty participants from Benyin, Eloyin, Ebonloa, Nzulezu took part in the meeting.

The screening of documentary films on wetlands and the Asia Tsunami and the Ahanta West CREMA was followed like the previous meetings by questions on the benefits they derive from the wetlands. They agreed that they wetlands in general provided them with fishing livelihoods, Eco-tourism, wood, raffia for construction and water for agriculture production. They however complained that that wetland in the area also cause severe flooding sometimes.



Figure 16: Daniel Nortey making a presentation at the Beyin meeting

After this Daniel Nortey and Justice Mensah facilitated the session on the Amanzule Conservation initiative including the development of the scenarios and the endorsement by the chiefs of the area. Issues concerning the degradation of the wetlands and the need to conserve them were also discussed. In discussing the presentation, they pointed out that the main problems facing the wetlands are poverty and ignorant which need to be addressed. A participant for Elloyin stated that the new bridge over the river was poorly done and this is affecting the wetland in the area. She also suggested that mangrove in the area should be replanted in order the conserve them.

On what they leaned from the presentation, they pointed out that they understood the relationship between the wetlands and the industry and that their destruction would affect them negatively. They called for the introduction of new livelihood opportunities to help them preserve the wetlands. They said sand winning is a problem but law enforcement is poor so nobody cares.

Presentation on CSLP

The presentation on CSLP was done by Richard Adupong, the Communication Specialist, who spoke about the project, its objectives and scope. He also touched on the livelihood aspect of the project including the Village Savings Scheme.

Volunteers

As in the case of the three previous meetings, the following participants volunteered to help in future activities to conserve the Amanzule wetlands

1. John Enkpolley Kwesi- 0246052104

2. Thomas Ewiah- Eboloa
- 3 Arize Francis- Eboloa
4. Ben Sengu – Nzulezu
5. Randolph Ofori- Benyin
6. Vincent Andoh- Elloyin

Conclusion

The meetings enabled the Hen Mpoano team to sensitize the participants on the Amanzule wetlands and the need to conserve them. They appreciated the importance their chiefs have attached to the conservation agenda and expressed the hope that the actions taken so far would be sustained to encourage local communities to participate. It is hoped that communities in Ellebelle would demonstrate the same level of commitment to make the sensitization work less difficult.

Lessons Learned

The screening of documentaries on wetland conservation helped make the sensitization work easy and afforded the participants the opportunity to appreciate the significance of the wetlands. The use of slide show and other IEC materials focused the attention of communities and participants on the activities for the day.

The hosting of meetings in the palaces of chiefs is a thorny issue in terms of cost. The issue of non-payment of transport subsidies to hosting communities is an issue that has to be handled tactfully to prevent apathy.

Annex 5: Summary Report on Ellembelle Community Wetlands Conservation Meetings

Introduction

From January 13- 16 2015, five community meetings were held in Ellembelle District as part of the activities planned under the Amanzule Wetlands Conservation initiative.

Like the previous meetings held in the Jomoro District in December, 2014, adjacent communities were clustered to ensure effective participation of the selected participants. In all five meetings were organized. The meetings were held in Sawoma (Ankobra), Apaim, Alabokazo, Sanzule and Old Bankata.

The Report

The following report highlights the salient points discussed and the issues raised by participants at each of the community meetings.

A. Sawoma Meeting

The first community meeting was held at Sawoma in the Ellembelle district on Tuesday, January 13, 2015. The venue was the Ankobra Anglican Primary School Canteen. In attendance were 38 participants from Ankobra, Bobrama and Asanta. They included community elders, farmers, the Assemblyman, Unit Committee members, teachers, fishermen, fish processors, traders and youth leaders

Method of Delivery

After the introduction by the youth leader of Ankobra, Mr Francis Yankey, a documentary on wetlands was shown with the aim of preparing their minds for the main presentation. This was followed by a question and answer session to ascertain their understanding of wetlands in general. Based on the documentary, they agreed that wetlands provided them with fishing livelihoods, wood for fuel and water for livestock, and dry season farming among others.

Main Presentation

The introductory discussions preceded the main presentation on the Greater Amanzule Wetlands and the Conservation Scenarios which was done in the local language (fante) by Daniel Nortey of Hen Mpoano. This was done through the use of slide show with pictures depicting the uses as well as the degradation of wetlands.

As part of the presentation, participants were also given a general background to the CSLP concept as well as the role being played by Hen Mpoano. This was followed by a brief background on the evolution of the Greater Amanzule Wetlands Conservation initiatives, highlighting the preceding activities during the ICFG program from 2010 to 2013 which led to the formation of the Amanzule Working Group, the Amanzule Retreat, the development of the Conservation Scenarios and the Amanzule Conservation Declaration of June 5, 2013.

Participants were also taken through the importance of wetlands such as livelihood, habitat for animal species, flood control, ecotourism, source of drinking water, etc. The presentation also

touched on wetlands degradation activities such as the destruction of wetland vegetation, sand wining, settlements, poor sanitation, overfishing and discharge of untreated sewerage.

After the presentation, participants were given the opportunity to make comments and also ask questions. During this session, they agreed that the wetland in the area had been subjected to various forms of degradation including harvesting of trees for fuel wood and filling for construction. They argued that the conservation of the wetlands would also depend largely on the chiefs and landowners since they give out land to developers and community members cannot resist them.

What should be done?

The participants put forward the following suggestions to help conserve the wetlands:

- Formation of a wetland committee
- Enactment community bye-laws to regulate the use of wetlands
- Planting of relevant trees
- Involvement of community chiefs
- Provision of alternative or diversified livelihood trainings.

Volunteers

At the end of the meeting, the following people volunteered to help in conserving the wetlands:

6. Joseph F. Esambey
7. Amos Buah Appoh
8. John Maccarthty
9. Kainyah Francisca
10. Ackah Solomon
11. Paul Nato Codjoe
12. 7. Mary Kainyah
13. Clement a. adjei
14. Robert Blay
15. Charles Amanatey
16. Comfort Nda
17. Emmanuel Kenya
18. John K. Mensah

B. Ampaim Meeting

The second meeting was held on January 14, 2015 at the Chief's palace at Ampaim. Twenty eight (28) people from Azulenoano, Ampaim and Kangbule participated in the meeting.

The meeting began with self-introduction of participants. This was followed by the screening of a documentary on wetlands after which the participants were asked to express their opinions on the documentary. The participants identified the following as the benefits they derive from wetlands:

- Water for domestic use
- Water for processing coconut oil
- Wine from raffia
- Get fish from the wetlands
- Fuel wood
- Wood for building
- Cultivation of rice, sugarcane

They all agreed that the wetlands have all been degraded through cutting of vegetation, sand winning, improper land use planning and increase in population. They also complained that refugees from Cote'd'Ivoire have been harvesting mangrove at an alarming rate in the area. This if not checked can destroy the rich mangrove forest.

Presentation

The introductory documentary was followed by the presentation on the Greater Amanzule Wetlands and the Amanzule Conservation Scenarios. The presentation also touched briefly on CSL project. This session was facilitated by Justice Mensah and Daniel Nortey, all of Hen Mpoano. During the question and answers session, the following issues or concerns were raised:

Concerns/Issues

- There should be more interaction with community members to be fully aware of the importance of wetlands.
- There is no place to send offenders to, so nobody is motivated to arrest anybody
- The way land is sold without recourse to assembly bye laws is a problem for wetland conservation
- Land owners and chiefs will have to be involved in wetland management
- Alternative livelihoods are crucial in conserving wetlands

They also were not happy about the fact that so any NGOs come to the area but do very little for the people.

What should be done?

The participants put forward the following suggestions:

7. There should be replanting at degraded areas
8. Sanitation around wetlands should be improved
9. District assemblies should be involved
10. The Forestry Department should help with seedlings for replanting
11. Committees should be formed in wetland communities to conserve them.

Volunteers

All the participants volunteered to serve on the conservation committee. The list is attached to this report.

C. Alabokazo Meeting

The third community meeting was held at Alabokazo on, January 15, 2015. Participants from Alabokazo and Aloakpoke attended the meeting. Like the two previous meetings a documentary on the Ahanta West CREMA was shown for the participant to get an idea about what other communities are doing to conserve wetlands. During the discussion that followed they demonstrated an outstanding appreciation of the benefits derived from wetlands such as fishing livelihood, fuel wood and water for domestic use.

This was followed by the presentation on Amanzule wetlands and the conservation scenarios,

Concerns/Issues

- Communities are not motivated to conserve because do not get money from conserving wetlands
- Communities members need more education
- People cut trees because they use them for fuel
- Land owners and chiefs decide on uses of land. Their decision is final
- More livelihood opportunities should be provided

What should be done?

- A management committee should be formed to help conserve the wetlands
- Livelihoods should be provided in communities to encourage them to conserve the wetlands
- Chiefs and land owners should be involved in wetland management

Volunteers

At the end of the discussion, all the 32 participants volunteered to form the wetland management committee. This means that each of the two communities will have its own committee. The list is attached to the report.

D. Sanzule Meeting

The fourth meeting was held at Sanzule on January 16, 2015. Twenty four (24) participants were in attendance. After the initial self-introduction, the participants were asked to mention what they knew about wetlands and they stated the following:

- Used for vegetable farming
- Fishing, raffia wine
- Water for domestic use
- Wood for building
- Rice production

- Water for domestic use

According to them if they are destroyed they will not get the benefits they are currently enjoying. There was the need to protect them. This was followed by the presentation on the Amanzule wetlands and the conservation scenarios.

After the discussion, they proposed that the following should be addressed:

- Bye laws should be put in place to regulate the use of wetland resources
- Chiefs and land owners should also assist the communities to manage the wetlands
- Resources should be provided and communities trained to manage the wetlands
- People should be prevented from winning sand at the beach.

Volunteers

The following participants volunteered to serve on the wetland management committee

1. Prince Cudjoe
2. Adayi Ekue
3. Joshua Azumah
4. Agnes Yeboah
5. Stephen Quarame Paha
6. John Paul Boakye
7. Samuel Akwasi Cudjoe
8. Akabi Kaku
9. Francis Kwofie
10. Mary Abba

E. Bakanta

The fifth and last meeting for communities in the Ellembelle District was held at Bankata chief's palace on January 16, 2015. Twenty five people participated in the meeting.

The screening of documentary film on the Ahanta West CREMA was followed like the previous meetings by questions on the benefits they derive from the wetlands. They agreed that they wetlands in general provided them with fishing livelihoods, Eco-tourism, wood, raffia for construction and water for agriculture production.

After this Daniel Nortey and Justice Mensah facilitated the session on the Amanzule Conservation initiative including the development of the scenarios and the endorsement by the chiefs of the area. Issues concerning the degradation of the wetlands and the need to conserve

them were also discussed. In discussing the presentation, they pointed out that the main problems facing the wetlands are poverty and ignorant which need to be addressed.

On what they leaned from the presentation, they pointed out that they understood the relationship between the wetlands and the industry and that their destruction would affect them negatively. They called for the introduction of new livelihood opportunities to help them preserve the wetlands.

Volunteers

The following participants volunteered to help in future activities to conserve the Amanzule wetlands

1. Andrew Miah
2. John Ackah
3. James Arllou
4. Moses Kwesi
5. James Armoo
6. Augustine Adayi
7. Augustine Ackah
8. Ambrose Blay
9. Aba Kofi Assemada
10. Charles Ndade
11. Sylvester Ndade
12. Theresa Owusu
13. Dangboley Nwiana
14. Kofi Ndabiah

Conclusion

The meetings enabled the Hen Mpoano team to sensitize the participants on the Amanzule wetlands and the need to conserve them. They appreciated the importance their chiefs have attached to the conservation agenda and expressed the hope that the actions taken so far would be sustained to encourage local communities to participate. It is a marked improvement on the meetings held at Jomoro district. Attendance at the meetings was higher than Jomoro and participation of women was very impressive.

Lessons Learned

The screening of documentaries on wetland conservation helped make the sensitization work easy and afforded the participants the opportunity to appreciate the significance of the wetlands. The use of slide show and other IEC materials focused the attention of communities and participants on the activities for the day.

Hen Mpoano did not encounter any problems hosting some of the meetings in the chiefs' palaces.

Urgent Issue

The degradation of mangroves at Apaim by the Ivoirean refugees is an urgent issue to be tackled by the UNHCR and the Assembly in collaboration with Hen Mpoan and partners.

Annex 6: Sensitization and Consultation Meeting with Ellebelle District Assembly on Conservation of Amanzule Wetlands at Nkroful on January 21, 2015

Introduction

The meeting was held for a select staff from the Ellebelle District Assembly to sensitize the Conservation scenarios and get their buy-in for the Greater Amanzule Wetlands conservation agenda. The meeting took place at the Ellebelle District Assembly Hall on January 21, 2015. Participants present were assembly members from six electoral areas, heads of departments, Presiding member, Coordinating Director, his two deputies and the Planning Officer.

Objectives

The main objectives of the meeting were to:

- Introduce the CSLP, its objectives and expected results
- Create awareness on the Greater Amanzule Conservation initiative in order to solicit the assemblies' support and buy-in.
- Identify roles departments under the assemblies can play to promote the Amanzule Conservation agenda
- Establish formal working relations with the assembly to promote the Amanzule wetlands conservation agenda

Welcome Note by Deputy Director of Hen Mpoano (Mr. Stephen Kankam)

Mr Stephen Kankam in his welcome address highlighted various activities and contributions from different stakeholders in trying to conserve the Amanzule wetlands. Hen Mpoano's work, according to him was a continuation of the initiative started by the ICFG program in 2012. He explained the ecological and socio-economic benefits of the wetlands to the district and local communities. He was hopeful that the assembly would incorporate the conservation of the wetlands into its spatial planning scheme in the new medium-term development plan. This, he said would make it possible for the assembly to regulate the exploitation of wetland resources in the district.



Figure 1: The Programmes Coordinator of Hen Mpoano Mr. Stephen Kankam welcoming the participants

Overview of CSLP

Presentation on the Coastal Sustainable Landscapes Project (CSLP) was made by Mr. Richard Adupong (Communication Specialist). In his presentation explained that the main focus of the project was on climate change mitigation and adaptation. He added that, at the end of the project, there should be improved livelihoods through enhanced natural resource management practices, strengthened stakeholder engagement and coordination on sustainable landscape management and enhanced capacity for ecosystem services monitoring.

He also talked about some of the interventions in terms of livelihood options for communities within the district. Examples were bee-keeping, vegetable production and woodlots for charcoal. He said the main approaches were in-field consultations, strategic capacity building, targeted training, detailed technical assistance and participation in institutional/policy level discussions/workshops.

Presentation by Balertey Gormey

Mr. Gormey defined the area in question (The Greater Amanzule Wetlands) as stretching from the Ankobra River estuary to the Ivory Coast border and covers the coaster plains of the Ellebelle and Jomoro districts.



Figure 3: *Mr. Balertey Gormey (Project officer Hen Mpoano) addressing participants*

In his presentation he listed the importance of wetlands as being the home for migratory birds, feeding grounds for juvenile fishes, spawning grounds for fishes, serving as carbon sinks, water purification systems, controlling flood, important tourist sites and controlling erosion.

He took participants through the various processes that had led to several developments in the effort of conserving the Amanzule wetlands. The high lights were;

8. Formation of the Amanzule Working Group (AWG) which was expanded to include SPAGs
9. Consultative/stakeholder meetings
10. Community level meetings
11. Endorsement workshop
12. Socialization of the model
13. Support and benediction received from the Nzema Manle and other stakeholders



Figure 4: Participants actively engaged during a presentation section

Issues of concern and roles of DA's departments towards GAW conservation

Mr. Stephen Kankam in facilitating this section solicited inputs from participant on how Ellembele district assembly could help in forming structures to help in the conservation of the Greater Amanzule wetlands. He added that harmonization of existing structure would help to increase efficiency and effectiveness. Mr. Kankam then called for contributions on how to form functional committees or structures.



Figure 4: Assembly member for Ampain (Hon. Raph) contributing to the meeting

Outcomes

At the end of the meeting the participants put forward the following suggestions as the assembly's contribution to the process:

1. Empowerment of Unit Committees and Area Councils to help conserve the wetlands in their areas
2. Mines and environment subcommittee could also serve the purpose
3. In-cooperation of wetlands conservation into assembly's development plan
4. Assembly will gazette bye-laws on wetlands/natural resource conservation
5. EDA to explore potential wetlands for ecotourism
6. EDA to consider the creation of nature reserve in some wetlands
7. Build capacity of the communities to understand and appreciate the importance of wetlands
8. Wetland captured in the Draft Development plan
9. EDA staff to support Hen Mpoano/CSLP on community sensitization exercises (personnel from the assembly)
10. There is the need for more education in communities on issues of degradation of wetlands and their implications

Closing remarks

In his closing statement, on behalf of the Coordinating Director, Mr Derrick Dapah (Planning Officer) was pleased the program had come to a successful end. He appealed to Hen Mpoano to produce more of the sticker posters to distribute in communities to enhance education.

Annex 7: Amanzule Working Group Meeting at Nkroful on January 22, 2015

Introduction

This report highlights discussions and outcomes of the Amanzule Working Group (AWG) meeting Nkroful at the Ellebelle District Assembly Hall on January 22, 2015. It was attended by thirteen members including staff from Hen Mpoano and CSLP.

Presentation by Stephen Kankam

The Deputy Director of Hen Mpoano in his address spoke more on the good work done so far by the Amanzule Working Group.

He explained why the group had not heard from Hen Mpoano for the past years and added that Hen Mpoano was no more the name of a project but now a legally registered Non- Governmental Organization. This he said would help to build on the positive achievements of the Integrated Coastal and Fisheries Governance Initiative (ICFG) which was popularly called Hen Mpoano. Mr. Kankam then spoke on the main agenda for the meeting. He said the meeting was called to discuss possible ways in which the group or its individual members could contribute to make the conservation of the wetlands a success.



Figure 1: The Programmes Coordinator Mr. Stephen Kankam welcoming the participants

Overview of CSLP

Mr. Kwame Appiah Owusu (Community Benefits/Natural Resources Management Specialist for CSLP) in his presentation explained that the main focus of the project was on Climate change mitigation and adaptation. He added that, at the end of the project, there should be some measurable amount of low carbon emissions and that CSLP combine agroforestry with some livelihood options to achieve this goal.



Figure 2: Mr. Kwame Appiah Owusu of CSLP addressing participants

Presentation by Balertey Gormey

Mr. Gormey highlighted the progress made so far by Hen Mpoano with the support of CSLP to sensitize local communities and other stakeholders on the conservation scenarios which the group helped to develop. He said that with the completion of the task given to the group, there was the need for members to take a decision on its existence- that is to dissolve it or find a role for it to play in the new arrangements for the conservation of the wetlands.



Annex 8: Third Amanzule Retreat: Achieving Conservation Status for Amanzule Wetlands: The Progress So Far

Introduction

The third Amanzule Retreat was organized to discuss the progress made so far in getting a conservation status for the Greater Amanzule wetlands located in the Ellembelle and the Jomoro districts in the Western Region of Ghana. It was a follow-up on the two previous retreats held in 2012 and 2013. It took place at the Royal Kikam beach Resort in the Ellembelle district on January 29 and 30, 2015.

Attended by 45 participants including traditional leaders, community members, district assembly officials, the two-day retreat had the following objectives:

- To inform stakeholders on the progress of work on the conservation agenda
- To present the next set of actions to be implemented for adoption by stakeholders
- To discuss issues and challenges arising out of the activities so far implemented

Based on the advice from the chiefs, the retreat was combined with the meeting with the paramount chiefs since their schedules would not permit them to attend two different meetings with same objectives.



Figure 1: Participants registering at the beginning of the program

Overview of day one activities by Daniel D. Nii Nortey



Day two activities began with a recap of the previous day's discussions by Mr. Daniel Nortey. The remainder of the day's work was mainly on group work presentations and discussions.

The group presentations were based on the following questions

1. What next steps should we take?
2. How can we make the structures functional?
3. How do we ensure the continuity of the committees in the absence of donor funds?
4. How can the committees relate with Das through their sub-structures (unit committee and Area Council)?

Below is the summary of the group presentations.

GROUP1



Question 1: Next steps to take

- Education, Sensitization and Awareness raising e.g videos, media/radios
- Mainstream into non-formal education programmes
- Increase participation of people
- Include community development officers in

education

- Consistent sensitization activities

Question 2: Making structures work

- Regular meetings
- Groups should have timelines of activities
- Identify objectives of individuals / communities before going forward
- Establish local officers
- Motivation for committee members e.g study tours, certificates, cash awards, training programs, materials- boots, torch light

Question 3: Ensuring continuity

- Regular meetings
- Submit periodic report to Assembly via DCEs
- Generate funds locally through fines, taxes etc
- Write fund raising proposal.

Question 4: Relationship with Assembly Structures

- Incorporate unit committee and assembly members
- Write reports to assemblies
- Invite assembly officials for briefing meetings where necessary



GROUP 2



Question 1: Next steps to take

- Identify all relevant stakeholders
- Community sensitization and awareness creation, media
- Formation of committees
- Seeking donor funding

Question 2: Making structures

- Nomination and election
- Capacity building to source funds

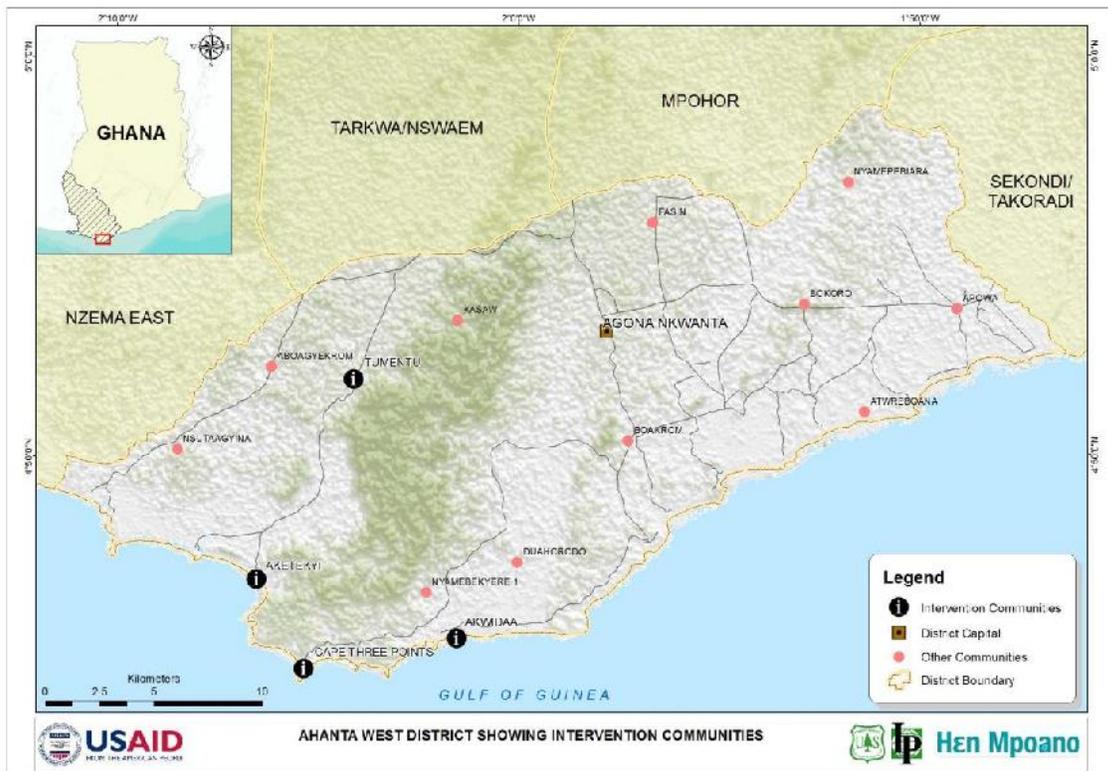
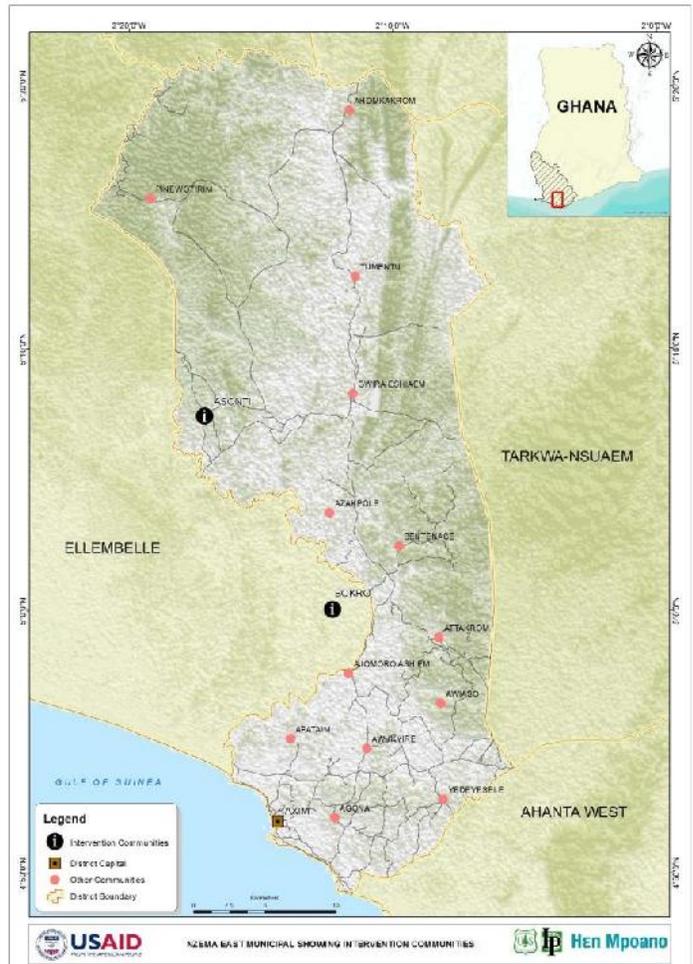
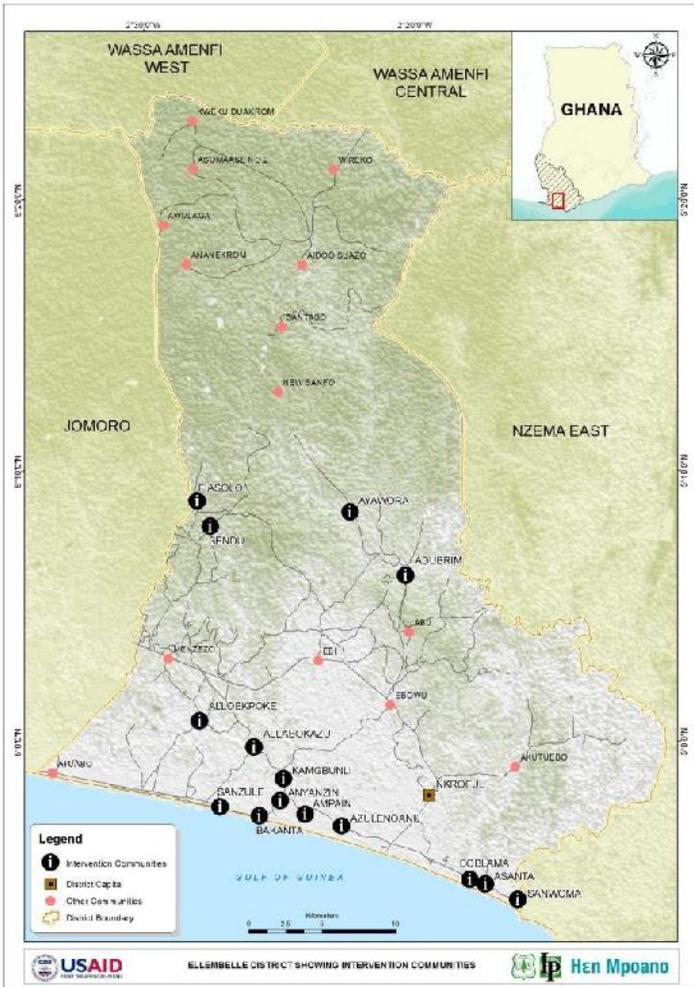
Question 3: Ensuring continuity

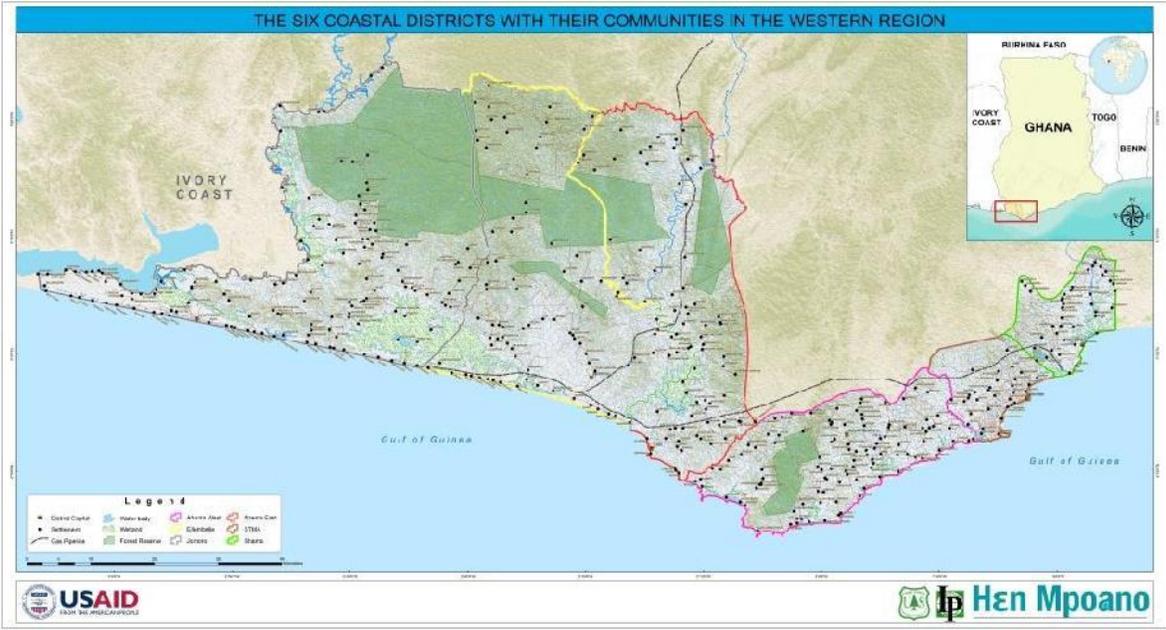
- Identification and creation of tourist sites
 - Income generation
- Incorporate activities of committees into MTDP

Question 4: Relationship with Assembly Structures

- Enact and enforce by-laws on natural resource conservation
- Assembly members should automatically be committee members
- Sub-committee at DA to consider natural resource conservation issues







Annex 10: IEC materials

USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Coastal Sustainable Landscapes Project
2015

Conserving Amanzule Wetlands Means More Fish; More Food; Resilient Communities

January							February							March							April																		
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN												
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Amanzule Wetlands Conservation is a Collaboration Between
US Forest Service International Programs and Hen Mpoano

Hen Mpoano



Coastal Sustainable Landscapes Project

Values/Importance of Wetlands



Recreation & Ecotourism



Livelihood



Fish Nursery Ground



Climate Regulation



Flood Control



Bird Habitat



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Hen Mpoano